

# 186<sup>th</sup> Street Times

20 February 2024

Perfect for your mornings.

---

## “ZEBRA” TURNS OUT TO BE PAINTED DONKEY.

*By Aydin Zubair.*



In the annals of animal mix-ups, one story stands out as particularly amusing: the curious case of the "zebra" at an Egypt

zoo that turned out to be nothing more than a painted donkey. Yes, you read that right. It seems the zookeepers took the phrase "horse of a different color" a bit too literally.

It all started innocently enough when a photo surfaced online of what was purported to be a zebra at the zoo, proudly displaying its black and white stripes. However, upon closer inspection, eagle-eyed netizens quickly pointed out some glaring discrepancies. For one, the so-called zebra had black smudges on its face, reminiscent of a child's haphazard attempt at finger painting. Moreover, its ears were not the long, pointy ones characteristic of zebras but rather the shorter, rounder ones more commonly associated with donkeys. And if that wasn't enough to raise suspicions, the "zebra" in question seemed to be on the petite side, lacking the majestic stature one would expect from such a creature.

Naturally, the internet erupted with laughter and disbelief. Memes were created, jokes were cracked, and puns were aplenty. Some users quipped that the zoo must have been cutting corners by hiring a part-time artist instead of investing in a real zebra. Others suggested that perhaps the donkey had aspirations of grandeur and decided to reinvent itself as a zebra for a day.

But amidst all the hilarity, one question remained: how did the zoo officials respond to being called out on their faux-pas? Well,

much to the amusement of everyone involved, they doubled down on their assertion that the painted donkey was, in fact, a genuine zebra. Talk about commitment to the bit!

In their defense, the zookeepers argued that the donkey was merely a stand-in for the real zebras, who were temporarily unavailable due to unspecified reasons. They maintained that they had taken every precaution to ensure the donkey's authenticity, including using high-quality paint and strategically placing it in the zebra enclosure.

Nevertheless, the evidence spoke for itself, and the verdict was unanimous: the "zebra" was a donkey in disguise. And while it may not have fooled anyone for long, it certainly provided a much-needed dose of levity in an otherwise tumultuous world.

So, the next time you visit a zoo and come across a suspiciously striped creature, take a closer look. It just might be a donkey trying to pull the wool—or rather, the stripes—over your eyes. After all, in the animal kingdom, as in life, things are not always as they seem.

# WHAT IS A GET RICH QUICK SCHEME?

*By Aydin Zubair.*

Driving down the highway, the sun is shining, the wind is in your hair, and suddenly, like a mirage in the desert of monotony, you see it: a billboard promising riches beyond your wildest dreams. "Get rich quick!" it shouts in bold letters, beckoning you to pull over and enter the realm of MobileSiteSniper Money Services. But hold on to your wallets, folks, because behind that glossy facade lies a world of broken promises and shattered dreams.

What exactly is a "get rich quick" scheme, you ask? Well, imagine if making money were as easy as microwave popcorn – just press a button and watch your bank account explode with cash. Sounds too good to be true? That's because it usually is.

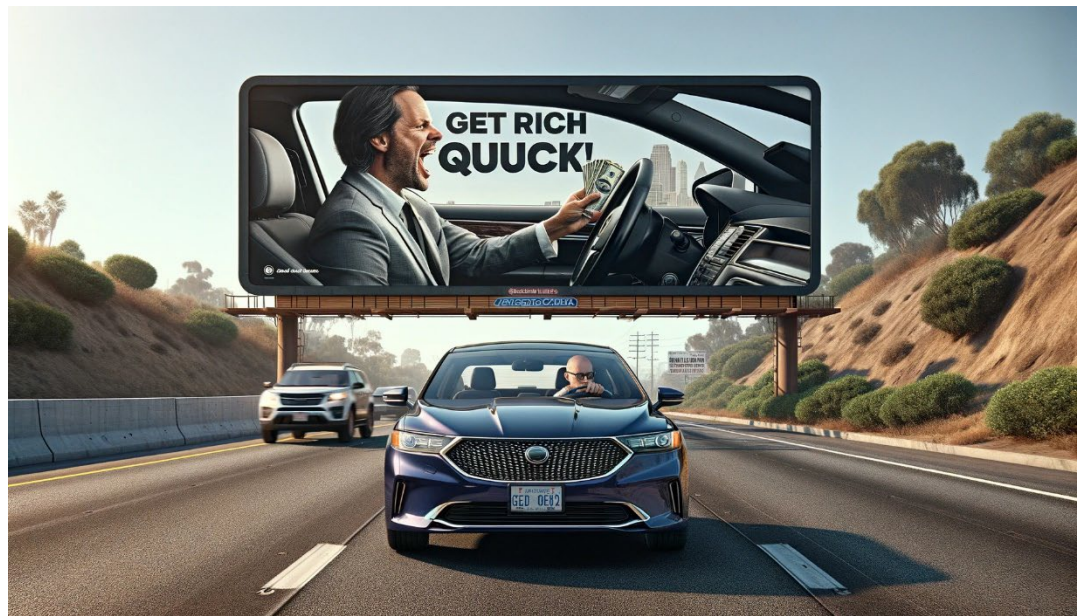
A "get rich quick" scheme is like a siren song luring unsuspecting sailors onto the rocks of financial ruin. It promises massive wealth with minimal effort, seducing you with visions

of yachts, private islands, and endless piña coladas. But in reality, it's more like a bad Tinder date – all hype and no substance.

These schemes come in many shapes and sizes, from pyramid schemes that rely on recruiting an ever-expanding army of suckers, to Ponzi schemes that rob Peter to pay Paul until the whole house of

cards comes crashing down. And let's not forget about multilevel marketing, where you can "be your own boss" by selling overpriced vitamins to

your friends and family until they stop returning your calls.



But wait, there's more! Investment scams promising astronomical returns with no risk, online courses that teach you the "secrets" of success for the low, low price of your firstborn child, and of course, everyone's favorite – Nigerian princes in need of a small loan to unlock their vast inheritance.

So, how can you spot these wolves in sheep's clothing? Well, if it sounds too good to be true, it probably is. If the only people getting rich are the ones selling you the dream, run for the hills. And if you find yourself tempted by the siren song of easy money, just remember: there's no shortcut to success, no magic pill for wealth, and definitely no such thing as a free lunch (unless it's leftover pizza in the break room fridge).

So, the next time you see a billboard promising to turn you into a millionaire overnight, do yourself a favor and keep on driving. Because when it comes to "get rich quick" schemes, the only thing that gets rich quick is the scam artist behind the curtain.

# WHAT IS CLICKBAIT?

*By Aydin Zubair.*

Clickbait: the siren call of the internet, luring unsuspecting netizens into a vortex of sensationalized headlines and broken promises. It's the digital equivalent of a flashy carnival barker, promising wonders beyond imagination, only to leave you with a handful of stale popcorn and a sinking feeling of regret. But oh, how we fall for it every time.



What exactly is clickbait, you ask? Well, dear reader, allow me to peel back the layers of this tantalizing onion for you. Clickbait is the art of crafting headlines so irresistible, so provocative, that you simply can't help but click on them. It's the digital equivalent of dangling a shiny object in front of a magpie—you just can't resist the urge to snatch it up, consequences be damned.

Take, for example, the classic clickbait gem: "You'll Never Believe This!" Oh, won't I now? Well, buckle up, because apparently, my belief system is about to be shattered into a million

tiny  
fragments  
by  
whatever  
mind-  
blowing  
revelation



Leading Doctor Reveals the No. 1 Worst Carb You Are Eating  
Mediconews



The \$\$\$ Moneymaking Secret that Banks Don't Want You To Know  
Bankfacts



These 12 Impossible Pet Rescue Stories Will Melt Your Heart!  
Cutepups Inc

lies behind this cryptic headline. Spoiler alert: it's usually something disappointingly mundane, like a cat wearing sunglasses or a celebrity eating a sandwich. Color me shocked.

Then there's the tried-and-true formula of "X Things You Need to Know." Ah yes, because clearly, my life is incomplete without knowing the top ten ways to repurpose old yogurt containers or the seven secret techniques for achieving the perfect sock

drawer organization. Thank you, clickbait overlords, for enlightening me with your infinite wisdom.

And who could forget the timeless classic: "This Weird Trick Will Change Your Life!" Oh, how I long to discover the one weird trick that will finally bring order to the chaos of my existence. Spoiler alert: it usually involves something mundane like drinking more water or standing on one leg while reciting the alphabet backwards. Life-changing stuff, truly.

But perhaps the *pièce de résistance* of clickbait is the infamous "This Is What Happens if You..." Ah, the tantalizing allure of cause and effect, distilled into a single headline. This is where clickbait truly excels, preying upon our innate curiosity and desire for narrative closure. Spoiler alert: whatever happens is usually underwhelming at best and utterly anticlimactic at worst. But hey, at least now you know what happens if you microwave a grape or attempt to lick your elbow. You're welcome.

So why do we continue to fall for clickbait, despite knowing deep down that it's probably just leading us down a digital rabbit hole of disappointment? Well, dear reader, the answer lies in our very nature. Humans are curious creatures by default, hardwired to seek out novelty and excitement wherever we can find it. Clickbait preys upon this innate curiosity, promising us a



glimpse into a world of wonders just beyond the click of a mouse.

Furthermore, clickbait taps into our emotions, playing upon our desires for affirmation, outrage, or resolution. It's a potent cocktail of psychological manipulation, designed to hijack our attention and compel us to click, consequences be damned.

But let us not forget the ultimate irony of clickbait: for all its tantalizing promises and provocative headlines, it often leads us down a path of disappointment and disillusionment. The content rarely lives up to the hype, leaving us feeling cheated and betrayed by the very headlines that lured us in.

So the next time you find yourself tempted by the siren song of clickbait, remember this: the grass isn't always greener on the other side of that tantalizing headline. Sometimes, it's just a carefully cultivated patch of disappointment, sprinkled with broken promises and dashed hopes. Click wisely, dear reader. Your curiosity may thank you.